



2013 Deer Trustee Report

Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

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Action Team: Herd Health/CWD	Hunting Regulations, Seasons, & Bag Limits B.8
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This document shows the original Deer Trustee Report recommendation that the Public Action Team considered when developing proposals for implementing the recommendation in Wisconsin. The Public Action Team's implementation proposal is presented then followed by additional background information.

I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION

B.8 Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the October antlerless seasons in the CWD Zone.

II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION

Below is the Public Action Team implementation proposal along with their rationale and supporting evidence, potential implementation obstacles and consideration of the proposal's potential impact on the overall deer management in Wisconsin.

1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

- This Team supports having an October antlerless season available statewide which would be used when and where needed for population management, including response to disease.
- Authority for implementing this season should be in consultation with appropriate stakeholder groups (including but not limited to Conservation Congress, Hunting Heritage Council) with approval by the Natural Resources Board.
- Though it should be possible to qualify for bonus buck tags (where Bonus Buck has been applied) through antlerless deer harvested in an October season, there should be a limit of three (3) bucks harvested annually by one individual, total (all weapons). The WDNR deer management structure should be able to cancel the October season as needed in response to deer population changes.

2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it.

- The availability of an October season was removed by an administrative order from the Governor in 2012.
- Many hunters perceive that having an October hunt reduces sightings of deer, and hunting success when the 9-day season starts. There are also many hunters who like the extra opportunity of the October hunt. Decisions about implementing an October antlerless hunt should always include public input.
- The Team's DNR advisors from the Northern Region view the October antlerless hunt as the best tool available for increasing antlerless deer harvest. This is a tool that may be needed in general to achieve CWD management goals in areas of new CWD detections.
- This issue needs to be considered not just for the CWD Management Zone, but also in areas of new CWD detections, such as Washburn County. It also is a tool that should be available for other disease management and deer population management.
- This is also a tool for accessing more deer for CWD surveillance testing, so if there is an October hunt, focus should be put on testing of the harvested deer where it is appropriate.



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3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Currently the WDNR does not have clear authority to use an October season as a tool for deer management. As a standard procedure, authority to implement this tool should reside with the WDNR with public and stakeholder input.

4. Overall, how will this proposal simplify or complicate deer hunting, management, or research in Wisconsin.

- This Team prioritizes having a simplified, statewide deer hunting season structure whenever possible. An October antlerless hunt is an important tool that WDNR should have available statewide, to be used when WDNR and its stakeholder partners decide it is needed for disease management and deer population and harvest management.